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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [IR](#)  
SUBJECT: IRAN REGIONAL PRESENCE OFFICE DUBAI: WINDOW ON IRAN - MAY  
28, 2009

CLASSIFIED BY: Ramin Asgard, Director, Iran Regional Presence  
Office, DOS.

REASON: 1.4 (b), (d)

11. (S/NF) Trilateral Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan Summit in  
Tehran: On May 24 the presidents of Afghanistan and Pakistan  
participated in a trilateral summit hosted by the IRIG intended  
to, in the words of Iranian Foreign Minister Mottaki, develop  
mechanisms to find "regional solutions for regional problems."  
The three presidents issued a 24-point "Tehran Declaration" in  
which they agree to create a mechanism for regular meetings at  
either the ministerial or head of state level; cooperate to  
eliminate terrorism; take "urgent steps" to develop  
infrastructure connectivity between the three countries; and to  
create pull factors in Afghanistan to facilitate the voluntary  
return of Afghans to their homeland; among others. The  
declaration also establishes a coordination committee of the  
three Deputy Foreign Ministers to prepare a comprehensive action  
plan and monitor progress of trilateral coordination. The next  
summit meeting is scheduled for Islamabad in October 2009.  
Comment: This meeting also featured final agreement between Iran  
and Pakistan to commence construction of the Iran-Pakistan  
pipeline. This "Peace Pipeline" project was originally to  
include India, but given India's reluctance press reports are  
already speculating that China may step in to join the project.  
In addition, Russia's Gazprom has already voiced interest in  
investing in the pipeline. With the next Shanghai Cooperation  
Organization summit scheduled for June in Yekaterinburg, Russia,  
we can expect such energy security issues to feature  
prominently, particularly as Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are  
currently observers and prospective members of the SCO.

12. (S/NF) American journalist denied visa as message to USG:  
An American journalist with a major wire service told us Iranian  
authorities have denied him a visa to cover the elections. He  
said IRIG officials told him it was in response to US refusals  
to issue visas to Iranian reporters and accredit Iranian news  
outlets. Other journalists working for his news service have  
received visas, he said, and the Iranians refused him, after  
allowing him into the country more than two dozen times in the  
past several years, as a message. He also said that Iranian  
staff of the news service had reported more intense pressure  
from Iranian security agents recently. Comment: As we reported  
in last week's WoI, Iranian officials are eager to get Iranian  
journalists into the US and believe that denying this, and  
potentially other visas in the future, might get their message  
across.

13. (S/NF) Soccer as Political Football: The Iranian press has

reported extensively this week on the potential friendly matches between the US and Iranian men's and women's teams. Iranian officials have been quoted agreeing to the matches, although US Soccer officials are more circumspect. Ahmadinejad deputy and Iran sports chief Mohammad Ali-Abadi was quick to endorse the match. According to US Soccer information, there was no serious discussion between the US and Iranian federations, but simply some mutual interest in potential match. Comment: Iranians are passionate about soccer, and we can't help but think that the timing of this announcement with presidential campaigns in full swing is hardly coincidental. Many of our contacts have told us that Ahmadinejad's electoral fortunes are tied to the performance of the national team in its upcoming World Cup qualifiers, and its possible that his campaign is hoping for some political benefit from a soccer-mad public if it can be seen to be improving relations with the US, if nowhere else but the soccer pitch.

ASGARD